

Appln No. 10/712,601

Amdt date November 22, 2005

Reply to Office action of June 7, 2005

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-12 and 14-29 are pending herein, with claims 5, 15, 16, 17 and 26 being amended herein.

The Examiner objects to claim 16 for informality but indicates that if corrected, claim 16 would be allowable. Applicant has amended claim 16 as recommended by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogg et al, (PUB. No. US 2002/0073039 A1). Applicant amends claim 15 to include the limitation that the "computer software that guides a user to confirm that a serial number on a label header and a label body of a label set in a roll of ~~labels~~ label sets to be printed with postage indicia matches a serial number in the software". As such, it is believed to distinguish over Ogg et al. which does not disclose label sets having a label header and a label body.

The Examiner also rejects claims 17-19, 21-24 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,325,303 to Walz et al.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Walz patent, and respectfully submits that with the currently made amendments to independent claims 17 and 26, upon which depend claims 18-19, 21-24, and claims 27-28, respectively, this ground of rejection is traversed. Claim 17 is amended to include the limitation that the elongate carrier has "a longer length and a narrower width", and that "the leader [is] located in front of the label body along the length of the elongate carrier". In the Walz patent, the "leader" 60 identified by the Examiner is lateral to the "label body" 44, and when being printed in a printer, the

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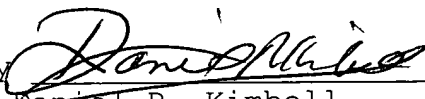
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"leader" will not extend out of the printer in front of the "label body" portion where the leader can be inspected by a user. Accordingly, a user cannot easily check to see if the serial number to be printed matches the serial number in the software. On the other hand, with the claimed arrangement of the leader header in front of the label body portion, this inspection is provided for. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-19, 21-24 and 26-28 are allowable.

The Examiner next rejects claims 20 and 29 as being unpatentable over Walz et al. as applied to claims 17-19, 21-24 and 26-28 above. Inasmuch as claims 20 and 29 depend on independent claims 17 and 26, respectively, which are believed to distinguish over Walz et al., so too should claims 20 and 29. Indeed, with respect to Waltz, it would be difficult to have the serial number on the "leader" portion arranged horizontally since it is relatively narrow. Again, even if it was, it would still be arranged side-by-side with the label body.

Based on the foregoing, claims 1-12 and 14-29 are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
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